

INITIATIVES AND INSTITUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SMALL STATES

The World Bank is working with other development agencies to increase the impact of development programs by providing frameworks tailored specifically for small states. The World Bank plays a specific role as a global connector of knowledge, a broker for development, and facilitator of capacity building and client learning. In addition to development agencies (e.g. [AusAID](#), [NewZealand Aid program](#), [Canadian International Development Agency](#), [European Commission](#)), Multilateral Development Banks and the IMF, many other institutions are providing support to small states, each with its own specific mandate, objective, and geographical focus:

- The [UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States](#) (UN-OHRLLS) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. Its programs/activities for [Small Island Developing States](#) (SIDS) aims at supporting the coordinated follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; promoting the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; undertaking advocacy in favor of the SIDS in partnership with the relevant parts of UN, as well as with the civil society, media, academia and foundations; assisting in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action; providing support to group consultations of SIDS.
- The [Commonwealth Secretariat](#) has been at the forefront of the analysis of the multiple economic, social and other challenges experienced by small states for several decades. 32 of the Commonwealth's 54 members are small states. The Commonwealth Secretariat's several global initiatives have rendered it well placed to help support small states in addressing their development challenges and in advocating for improved resources and influence for them.
- [Alliance of Small Island States](#) (AOSIS). Founded in 1990, it is an intergovernmental organization of 42 low-lying coastal and small island countries with the goal of formulating common positions among its members to address global warming. AOSIS has been very active from its inception, during the Kyoto Protocol negotiations.
- [Small Islands Voice](#) is an interregional initiative under UNESCO focusing on small islands with the goal of ensuring that the voice of the general public in small islands is heard. It works with islands communities and specific interest groups to build capacity on a wide range of issues for sustainable development.
- Small States Network for Economic Development (SSNED). Established in 2007, the network provides a mechanism for south-south knowledge exchange and sharing of "best practices" among small states through twinning arrangements and training workshops utilizing expertise from small states.
- [Small Countries Financial Management Centre](#) (SCFMC). Established in 2009, its purpose is to contribute to the growth and prosperity of small countries through capacity building in the government financial sector. This is achieved through the provision of targeted executive education programs conducted by practitioners and academics to provide improved skills, deeper understanding and best practice around financial regulation, risk management, and broader management of government financial activities.

In addition, there are several regional bodies:

- [The Pacific Islands Forum](#). Founded in 1971, it is an inter-governmental organization that aims to stimulate economic growth and enhance political governance and security for the region, through the provision of policy advice, and to strengthen regional cooperation and integration through coordinating,

monitoring and evaluating implementation of Leaders' decisions. It is an official observer at the UN. Its decisions are implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), which grew out of the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC). The Forum Secretariat has technical programs in economic development, transport and trade. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General is the permanent Chairman of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP).

- [The Caribbean Community](#) (CARICOM). Founded in 1972, it is an organization of 15 Caribbean nations with the aim of promoting economic integration and cooperation, ensuring that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and coordinating foreign policy. In 2001, Leaders signed a Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community, including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Part of the revised treaty includes the establishment and implementation of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Its major activities involve coordinating economic policies and development planning; devising and instituting special projects for the less-developed countries within its jurisdiction; operating as a regional single market for many of its members (CARICOM Single Market); and handling regional trade disputes.
- The [Indian Ocean Commission](#) (COI). Founded in 1984, it is an intergovernmental organization that joins Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, France (for Réunion), and the Seychelles together to encourage cooperation. Its objectives are diplomatic cooperation; economic and commercial cooperation, including agriculture, maritime fishing, and the conservation of resources and ecosystems; cooperation in cultural, scientific, technical, educational and judicial fields. Recently, cooperation has focused on marine conservation and fisheries management. The COI has funded a number of regional and national conservation and alternative livelihoods projects through ReCoMAP, Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Countries of the Indian Ocean (PROGECO).
- The [Pacific Regional Environment Programme](#) (SPREP). Founded in 1982, it is an intergovernmental organization charged with promoting cooperation, supporting protection and improvement of the Pacific islands environment, and ensuring its sustainable development.
- The [Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission](#) (SOPAC) is an inter-governmental regional organization dedicated to providing services to promote sustainable development for its members. SOPAC's work is carried out through its Secretariat and reviewed annually by a Governing Council assisted by Secretariat representatives, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and a Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR). SOPAC focuses on development and management of non-living resources in ocean and island systems; strengthening national capacities in energy, water and sanitation, information and communications; and improved hazard assessment and risk management.
- The [Bahamas Environment, Science & Technology Commission](#) (BEST) manages the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and reviews environmental impact assessments and environmental management plans for development projects within The Bahamas.
- The Regional Multidisciplinary Center of Excellence (RMCE) is an expertise hub for policy development, training and advisory activities, and a forum for dialogue to serve the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional development initiatives. It is intended to improve member states' professional capacity for addressing issues of Regional Economic Integration in core areas such as common macroeconomic policy, trade, finance, business development, investment, and sector strategy.
- Several universities and research centers located in small states have also critical expertise on issues related to socio-economic development of small states, including the [University of West Indies](#) and [University of South Pacific](#).